from its very capital, the Papacy found it necessary to turn again to the Normans, and that *entente* now long suspended, of Hauteville and St. Peter, which had made the fortunes of Guiscard and Richard, was once more revived. In the summer of 1167, Alexander III. in his refuge at Benevento is found guarded by Norman troops, and Sicily becomes the bulwark of the exiled Papacy. In another direction, the course of events ran in favour of the Norman kingdom. The long struggle with the Lombard League paralysed Barbarossa's sword arm; in the twenty years' war between the Empire and the confederate cities the resistance of the latter was sustained both by Papal letters and Sicilian gold. After the long struggle had staved off through many decisive years the blow which Frederick would surely have dealt against the Norman power, his overthrow at the hands of the City League on the field of Legnano in 1176 saved the Regno. At the Peace of Venice, in 1177, Frederick concluded terms with the Pope, Sicily, and the Lombards. Sicilian ships carried the Pope to the city of the lagoons, and William obtained a fifteen years' peace from the Holy Roman

Empire.

The great feud of Norman and German, however, was not to be settled merely by a truce, To make the reconciliation permanent, William offered the hand of his aunt Constance, last born child of Roger II,, to Henry, King of the Romans, son of Frederick I. The two were married in January,